

OPC Bulletin

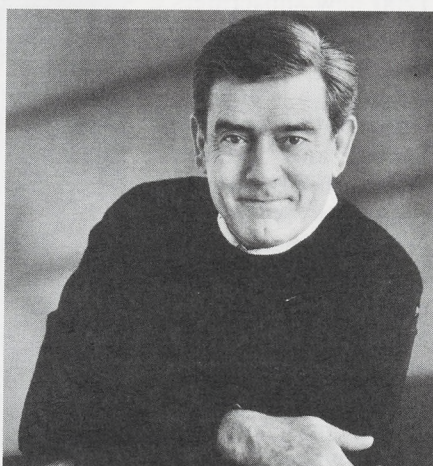
"This year's dinner is sure to be an extraordinary event," says OPC Head **Awards Dinner Set for April 26**

Make your reservations now for April 26 and what promises to be one of the most dramatic Overseas Press Club Awards dinners in recent years.

The list of winners is both strong and surprising, reports Michael Serrill of the Awards Committee. Dan Rather, the CBS News anchor, will present the awards and act as the evening's host.

In addition, the President's Award this year will be presented in memory of four photojournalists slain in Mogadishu, Somalia, last July, said Larry Smith, the OPC President.

The four are Hansi Krauss, 30, of the Associated Press; and Dan Eldon,



Dan Rather of CBS-TV, who will be host of this year's awards dinner.

22, a photographer, Hosea D. Maina, 38, a photographer, and Anthony Macharia, 21, a soundman, all of Reuters. A special display of their work, highlighting their careers, will be on exhibit near the ballroom.

"The award," Smith said, "is extended in wider recognition of all those who have been killed or injured trying to report the news over the past few years, in Queens as well as Somalia, Bosnia and Latin America."

The evening will begin at 6 in the Empire Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt on 42nd Street next to Grand Central in Manhattan. To reserve your tickets, call Mary Novick at (212) 983-4655.

Club Hears Bloomberg Tell Where He's Headed

BY CARYN FRIEDMAN

Michael Bloomberg has jumped onto the "information superhighway" at top speed, at a time when many other news providers are downsizing their organizations. Bloomberg, who founded Bloomberg Ltd. Partners a little more than 10 years ago, outlined his strategy for expansion to OPC members at the March 9 program at The Tudor in New York. With ventures ranging from electronic-data delivery to radio, television and print

media, Bloomberg said his goal was to provide value-added business news—meaning news that has been analyzed, organized, customized and delivered in a format to best suit the needs of users.

Shortly before he addressed the OPC, Bloomberg announced plans for a 13-hour-a-day television news service, Bloomberg Direct, to be transmitted by satellite. It is expected to debut May 1. In addition to a regular early-morning show on public

April Program:

A workshop, sponsored by the OPC Foundation, is offered to college students interested in careers as foreign correspondents.

When: Friday, April 8
Where: The U.N.
Time: 3 to 6 p.m.

television, Bloomberg is hoping to reach greater numbers of professionals by offering news gathered from

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Bloomberg...

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around the world by 250 reporters and 600 researchers. They serve on the staffs of Bloomberg Financial Markets, the data collection and transmission component of his financial information empire begun in 1982, and Bloomberg Business News, the news service he started in 1990.

Part of Bloomberg's multimedia strategy was realized last year when he purchased WNEW-AM, a New York radio station, which he turned into WBBR, a station with all-news radio programming—minus the crime reports that seem to predominate at other all-news stations. "We don't do crime because we take all of the news that's important and rank it, start at the top, and work our way down until we run out of time," explained Bloomberg. "Most times, crime just doesn't make the cut."

Why radio? Bloomberg sees radio as the ideal medium for transmitting news to people not in front of a terminal. "It's a two things at once, go-with-you-any-place kind of medium," he said. "Although not interactive, it provides the basics for stories you might want to check out further at another time."

The nucleus of Bloomberg's business is providing financial data and news to people in the securities and

investment industry, and the finance side of major corporations on proprietary computer terminals that they lease from him for \$1100 per month per terminal. With 35,000 customers around the world—and growing at the rate of 1200 new subscribers a month—Bloomberg Business News is becoming a serious contender along with Dow Jones and Reuters, although Bloomberg concedes: "As of today, you cannot survive in Europe without the newswire of record—Reuters, for business news."

With reporters in every country around the world where there are capital markets, Bloomberg is looking to Asia, particularly China, for the next surge in business news. Bloomberg is aggressively expanding his staff in Asia, with at least 33 reporters now, and plans to hire more in Tokyo. On the other hand, he sees little business news of consequence coming out of Russia and will keep representation there to a minimum.

To those who criticize him for selling his data only to those who lease his computers, instead of making it available to anyone who owns a personal computer, Bloomberg counters: "We have a grander strategy than just to sell terminals, but for now and the foreseeable future, the basic source of our

revenues will come from putting terminals on the desks of people in the business world."

"For some things print is still the best way to get the story out," added



Lisa Benivengo

Michael Bloomberg, the founder of Bloomberg Business News, outlined his plan for expanding his business at last month's OPC program.

Bloomberg, who publishes a monthly magazine for subscribers that reaches 90,000 customers and is quite profitable. The magazine along with his radio and television programming, are also available as selections on the Bloomberg computer terminals.

Is there any stopping Bloomberg? His critics have long suspected that he was building the journalistic version of a pyramid scheme, by hiring too many people too fast around the world and by charging into too many forms of media. But Bloomberg insists his financing is firm, thanks to Merrill Lynch and major insurance companies that back him. And he believes that his staff of veterans from *The Wall Street Journal*, *Business Week* and other major publications will give him a competitive edge.

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PEOPLE by AL KAFF

OPCER TELLS A FORGOTTEN TALE

Just about everyone knows of the five Sullivan brothers, the courageous sailors who died together on an American warship sunk by the Japanese in the Battle of Guadalcanal. But few people know what really happened in that tragedy. Dan Kurzman is one of them, and he tells their story graphically—along with the stories of the hundreds of others who perished in the disaster—in *Left to Die: The Tragedy of the USS Juneau*, published in hardcover by Pocket Books (335 pages, \$23).

Kurzman, a former *Washington Post* correspondent and an OPC member who won the Club's Cornelius Ryan Award a few years back, sums up the really sad part of the Juneau's fate in the three words of his title: left to die. For while most of the

crew aboard the Juneau, an anti-aircraft cruiser, were killed instantly when two Japanese torpedoes smashed into the ship, about 140 others were thrown into the water. Many of them were badly wounded, but they hung on to debris and rafts, hopefully awaiting rescue. For nearly all, it never came.

The other nearby U.S. warships sailed quickly away, apparently without noticing and certainly without reporting that there were survivors afloat in the water. Through an almost incredible sequence of blunders, oversights and mix-ups, it took almost a week before they were spotted from the air and rescued. When they were finally picked up, exactly 10 were still alive—the rest having either bled to death of wounds, perished of thirst and hunger, or, even more horribly, been devoured by sharks.

Eventually, an investigation was

held, and the commanding officer involved was found to be at fault and cashiered. But until now, the full story has never been told. In fact, the Navy tried to depict those who died, including the five Sullivan brothers, as heroes—which, of course, they were—and not as the victims of bureaucratic bumbling and fumbling—which they also were.

So Kurzman's book, in itself a well-told and engrossing tale of a tragedy and its ensuing cover-up, also serves as a well-deserved memorial, long after the event, for men who bravely and needlessly died.
—Herbert Kupferberg

TIME FOR LUNCH— AT THE CARVERY

Want to meet and visit with fellow members of the club and get a great meal, all you can eat, at the

same time, for a little over 12 bucks? Come to the Carvery on Wednesdays!

Various members of the Board of Governors, including *moi*, will be gathering there on Wednesdays between noon and 12:30 for both lunch and conversation. As we mentioned in a previous Bulletin, Cecil's at The Tudor offers daily what has to be not only one of the tastiest but also one of the best bargains for lunch in all of Manhattan.

The Carvery Lunch is a help-yourself buffet offering seasonal soup, varied and exciting salads, a carving roast, seafood, poultry and game specials, as well as vegetables and potatoes or rice. Also included are Cecil's elegant desserts.

If you're in town looking for company at lunchtime, or you want to keep up with what's going on, stop by and ask for the Overseas Press Club table. We'll see you there!

—Larry Smith

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Press Freedom Violations Continue Abroad: OPC Speaks Out

BY NORMAN A. SCHORR

Reported press freedom violations in four countries—South America and two in Africa—were protested recently by the Overseas Press Club Freedom of the Press Committee.

In messages sent principally by facsimile to the heads of state and other officials, the OPC expressed concern and called for action in cases involving three murders, many death threats, prison sentences of nearly a year for writing an article critical of the country's supreme court, detention of seven journalists of the opposition press, charges of subversion brought against editors and correspondents for covering a news story.

In Guatemala, a reporter on an opposition magazine and the wife and 14-year-old daughter of the same publication *Tinamet*, were murdered. Also, the director of *Tinamet* and other staff members received death threats, and the publication's delivery truck was assaulted and all the week's issues were confiscated. The president of Guatemala was urged to investigate the murders and to establish an environment where journalists can work without "harassment and intimidation."

In Chile, a weekly newspaper editor and a magazine editor were sentenced to 300 days in jail for writing articles critical of the supreme court's decision to transfer to the military courts investigation of the 1974 "disappearance" of a suspected terrorist. At least nine other Chilean journalists faced legal proceedings, mainly in military courts.

In a country that only recently permitted an opposition press to function, Ethiopia, at least seven editors of independent weekly magazines were arrested and held without being charged, for publishing articles critical of the gov-

ernment. The OPC called for the release of those seven and also for ending the trial of the chief editor and publisher of *Ethiopia* magazine. They were being held, charged with reporting anti-government fighting in one region of the country.

The president of Ethiopia was called on to end the persecution of these journalists, as well as other editors and reporters on the *Addis Tribune*, of Amharic-language journals and of the Ethiopian Free Journalists Association.

In Kenya, coverage of violence in the town of Molo, in a restricted area in the Rift Valley province, has resulted in charges of subversion facing four editors and reporters at *The Standard* newspaper. The journalists were arrested for writing about an incident in which nine people were killed. The police denied the incident occurred. Two of the four were released after questioning, two editors were denied bail. The OPC called for their release.

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OPC Foundation Plans U.N. Workshop

BY CARYN FRIEDMAN

A workshop, sponsored by the OPC Foundation and the United Nations Correspondents Association, will be held for college students interested in international affairs or careers as foreign correspondents on Friday, April 8, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium at the United Nations in New York.

Bill Holstein, the OPC vice president, will moderate a panel of veteran reporters who cover the U.N. Speakers include: Segun Adeyemi of News Agency of Nigeria; Ihiroki Sugita of Kyodo News Service of Japan; Norborto Svarzman of Televisa Latin America; Bhaskar Menon with the Times of India; Evelyn Leopold of Reuters; and Victoria Graham with the Associated Press.

Because of U.N. security restrictions, advance reservations are necessary. Please call Mary Novick at (212) 983-4655. A reception will be held at 5 p.m.